

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011004

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y: OMISSION OF ACTION ADDEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 0392 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
SOFIA MOSCOW 15 JANUARY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 392

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GR, BU  
SUBJECT: GREEK/BULGARIAN RELATIONS - FM BITSIOS' VISIT  
TO BULGARIA

REFS: SOFIA 0071 AND 0072 AND ATHENS 161

1. SUMMARY: MFA OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF BULGARIAN AFFAIRS  
CHARACTERIZED FM BITSIOS'S VISIT, JANUARY 8-10, AS UNQUALIFIED  
SUCCESS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL RELATIONS  
NOTEWORTHY FOR ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS.  
FONMIN BITSIOS TOLD EAGLETON AND ME THE SAME THING. DURING COURSE OF  
VISIT GREEK DELEGATION WAS ALERT FOR EVIDENCE OF SOVIET  
INFLUENCE BUT FOUND NONE IN CONTEXT OF GREEK/BULGARIAN  
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR BULGARIA

ALEXANDER VAYENAS IN DEBRIEFING ON FM BITSIOS' THREE-DAY VISIT TO BULGARIA CITED COMMUNIQUE (SOFIA 0071) AS ACCURATE REFLECTION OF CORDIALITY AND CONSTRUCTIVENESS OF VISIT. VAYENAS DESCRIBED GREEK/BULGARIAN RELATIONS AS INDEED HARMONIOUS SINCE NO REAL DIFFERENCES EXISTED BETWEEN TWO NATIONS AND NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES IN TRADE, TOURISM, CULTURE, ETC. PERMIT GREATER COOPERATION. WHILE NO AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED DURING VISIT EXCEPT FOR RENEWAL OF CULTURAL COOPERATION ACCORD, TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPLORED QUESTIONS OF ROAD TRANSIT THROUGH BULGARIA TO CENTRAL EUROPE FOR GREEK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN EXCHANGE FOR GREEK PORT FACILITIES FOR BULGARIA AND BROADER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. BULGARIANS SET TARGET OF \$100 MILLION IN BILATERAL ANNUAL TRADE WHICH IS NOW AROUND \$20 MILLION AND SUGGESTED FREE EXCHANGE SYSTEM TO REPLACE CURRENT CLEARING ACCOUNT METHOD.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY WHETHER MACEDONIAN ISSUE AROSE, MFA OFFICER SAID FORTUNATELY BULGARIANS DO NOT "PRETEND" THAT GREECE HAS SLAMACEDONIAN MINORITY SO THAT ISSUE WHICH CONTINUES TO PLAGUE GREEK/YUGOSLAV

RELATIONS DOES NOT ARISE WITH BULGARIA. VAYENAS NOTED GREEK DELEGATION THROUGHOUT VISIT KEPT WATCHFUL EYE FOR EVEN FAINTEST INDICATIONS THAT BULGARIANS WERE RECEIVING "GUIDANCE" FROM USSR ON HANDLING FM BITSIOS' VISIT AND WERE SATISFIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. BULGARIANS WENT TO GREAT LENGTH TO DENY PRESS ACCOUNTS OF BULGARIAN DEPENDENCE ON USSR OR THAT BULGARIA WAS DESTINED TO BECOME NEW SOVIET REPUBLIC. MEETINGS CONCLUDED WITH BOTH SIDES AGREEING TO FURTHER VISITS. (PM CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SOFIA AT INDEFINITE FUTURE DATE AND FM MLADENOV ATHENS PROBABLY THIS SPRING.) VAYENAS ADDED THAT VISIT ACCOMPLISHED PRIMARY PURPOSES OF SHORING UP RELATIONS PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.  
KUBISCH UNQUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

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